

Public dinner  
to Dr. MOTT.

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# PUBLIC DINNER TO DR. MOTTO.



At a meeting of the medical profession convened pursuant to public notice at the College of Physicians and Surgeons on the 23d ult. Dr. David Hosack was called to the chair, and Dr. Alex. F. Vache appointed secretary, whereupon the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the members of the medical profession in this city having understood that it is the intention of Dr. Valentine Mott to visit Europe, the state of his health being such as to require a relaxation from the cares of business, deem it a duty alike to him and to the cause he has so ably sustained, to present him with a public manifestation of their feelings in relation to his departure for a foreign land, therefore

Resolved, That we tender him a public dinner, as a voluntary tribute of respect for his successful efforts in advancing the professional character of our country both at home and abroad.

Resolved, That a committee of twenty-five be appointed to correspond with Dr. Mott, and make all other necessary arrangements.

Resolved, That this committee consist of the following gentlemen—

Doctors David Hosack, Hugh McLean, John William Francis, John Stearns, John Neilson, J. Van Rensselaer, A. L. Anderson, J. K. Rodgers, E. Delafield, Wm. Barrow, Gilbert Smith, S. W. Moore, Thos. Boyd, Wm. J. Macneven, Jos. M. Smith, D. L. Rogers, J. R. Rhinelander, E. G. Ludlow, Alex. E. Hosack, James Webster, Geo. Wilkes, W. W. Miner, Alex. F. Vache, James E. Cornell, Francis E. Berger.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting, together with the correspondence, be published.

DAVID HOSACK, *Chairman.*  
ALEX. F. VACHE, *Secretary.*

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## LETTER TO DR. MOTTO.

New-York, Jan. 24, 1835.

To Valentine Mott, M. D. Professor of Operative Surgery, with Surgical and Pathological Anatomy, in the University of the State of New-York.

Sir—At a general and numerous meeting of the members of the medical profession of the city of New-York, held agreeably to public notice, on the 23d inst. the undersigned were appointed a committee to convey to you the respect and esteem of your medical friends, and the high sense they entertain of the services you have rendered by your surgical talents to the improvement of the profession and to the interests of humanity; and whilst they lament the cause that has led you to suspend your professional duties, they beg leave previous to your departure for Europe to tender you a public dinner on such day as you may find convenient to set apart, for the purpose of receiving an expression of their sincere wishes for your return with renovated health to your friends and country.

We have the honor to remain,  
Your obedient servant,  
DAVID HOSACK.

Hugh McLean, John W. Francis, John Stearns, John Neilson, &c. &c.

## DR. MOTTO'S REPLY.

25 Park Place, January 27, 1835.

Gentlemen—The highly flattering and unexpected testimonial of esteem proffered by my professional brethren, in their tender of a public dinner prior to my departure for Europe, has been received with sentiments of grateful regard and a due sense of the honor conferred. The warm interest expressed for my welfare, and the truly complimentary manner in which they have been pleased to notice my feeble efforts for the advancement of science and the alleviation of human suffering, will prove a lasting gratification, and be cherished among the proudest recollections of my life.

I have the honor, gentlemen, to accept the very friendly invitation of the medical profession, and if agreeable would propose the 10th of the ensuing month, to meet with them and reciprocate the generous sentiments contained in your letter of the 24th inst.

With considerations of the highest respect,  
I remain yours, &c.

VALENTINE MOTTO.

To Drs. David Hosack, Hugh McLean, John W. Francis, John Stearns, John Neilson, &c. &c.

This entertainment took place at the City Hotel on the 10th inst., and was given in Mr. Jenning's best style. The company was numerous, and gave ample testimony of the estimation in which the honored guest was held by his professional brethren.

*Chairman.*

DR. DAVID HOSACK.

*Vice-Presidents.*

DR. MCLEAN, DR. ANDERSON,  
DR. STEARNS, DR. MOORE,  
DR. MACNEVEN, DR. FRANCIS.

After the cloth was removed, letters of apology were read from President Duer, Chancellor Matthews, Dr. Henry Mott, and Dr. J. Sheridan Knowles. The following toasts were then announced from the chair:

1. The President of the United States.
2. The Governor of the State of New-York.

3. The Mayor of the City of New-York.

His Honor returned thanks, and offered the following sentiment:

Honor to those who do honor to their profession.

The chairman, Dr. Hosack, prefaced his toast by the following address:

Gentlemen,—Having in a great degree withdrawn from the practice of medicine, I feel myself highly honored by your invitation, to take the place your partiality has assigned me at this interesting meeting, to take our leave of a brother practitioner, who for a time proceeds to a distant climate and country in pursuit of health. I may remark that the present is an occasion of rare occurrence in the quiet and retired walks of our profession. Festivals of this nature are more usually dedicated to the man who has signalized himself in the field of battle—who has served the state and country in the great events of political life—or has become eminent by some great achievement or discovery in the arts. I might here cite a long list of American worthies who have been distinguished in this manner, and have contributed largely to their country's welfare and honor. But we are now called upon to testify our great respect, and to express our unfeigned regard, for one of our citizens, who has no less elevated himself and his country by the improvements he has introduced into his profession, and by the services he has thence been enabled to render not only to his immediate fellow-citizens and countrymen, but thereby also, to a certain extent, to alleviate the sufferings of mankind throughout the globe; for those services are not limited to his native land, but have become extensively known, and have been gratefully acknowledged by his professional brethren in every part of the civilized world, and have been the means of lessening the ills of human life, wherever those improvements have been made known and have been adopted. They have indeed

thus become the property of *the world*; and by the world they will ever be appreciated and rewarded. May I not add, Gentlemen, without the charge of adulation, that while the records of medicine and surgery remain, while the memory of many of the benefactors to our country, who have signalized themselves in the profession shall be perpetuated, the name of our esteemed guest and fellow-citizen, and the important improvements he has introduced into that department of the healing art he has so successfully cultivated, will also be conveyed to the latest period of time?

I might here, Gentlemen, enter into details and illustrations highly honorable to the individual, and exhibit a statement of facts doubtless gratifying to every member of the profession present, but which time and the occasion both forbid. I may, however, be allowed to remark, that my first acquaintance with Dr. Mott, as a pupil of medicine and surgery, was formed in the year 1805. His enterprise, his habits of industry, his indefatigable labor, became familiarly known to me at that early day, and were considered as a sure presage of that success which has attended him through life. When he completed his course of study, and received the honors of his profession on this side of the Atlantic, he availed himself of the advantages of visiting the most celebrated medical schools of Great Britain and of the continent of Europe. There too he became not only known by his ardor in the general prosecution of his professional studies, but he more especially attracted the notice of his teachers in his favorite departments of *anatomy and surgery*. To these important branches he became signal and most successfully devoted; and ever since his return to the United States, they have received his unceasing attention, both as a practitioner and as a teacher of medicine. To these facts his fellow-citizens, as well, as the members of the profession throughout our country, will bear their united testimony. But in consequence of the impaired state of his health, the result of the laborious practice he has undergone for nearly *thirty* years, he is now very reluctantly called upon to make the painful sacrifice of suspending his professional duties and usefulness, for the purpose of recovering that health, which has been lost by his exertions to give health and happiness to others.

Upon this painful occasion of parting with our friend, I am sure, Gentlemen, you will all with one heart and one voice, unite with me in expressing the most sincere wishes for the prosperity of the voyage Dr. Mott is about to undertake, the recovery of his health, a happy return to the land of his birth, to his family and friends; and, above all, his re-assumption of the duties of that profession he has so long adorned, and in which he has been so usefully engaged for the benefit of his fellow-men, and the advancement of surgical science. With these feelings, I therefore

beg leave, Gentlemen, to propose to you as a toast—

4. Our worthy guest, Dr. Valentine Mott, wishing him a prosperous voyage, the restoration of his health, a happy return to his country, his family and friends, and a renewal and a long continuance of that success which has crowned his professional labors.

On which Dr. Mott rose and replied as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen—Accustomed as I have been, to pursue the practical details of my profession, and mingling but little with the busy scenes around me, I experience no inconsiderable difficulty in returning my acknowledgments for the distinguished honor you have this day been pleased to confer upon me.

It marks a new era in my life:—I shall cherish the remembrance of your kindness to the latest period of my existence, and the annual return of this day, in each succeeding year, will picture to me in colors, never to be effaced from my memory, the recollection of those professional friends now seated around this festive board, who, though I feel they have overrated my abilities, have yet convinced me, that when I am far from my native land, I shall not be forgotten.

I am wanting in words, Gentlemen, to express my gratitude for this unexpected demonstration of respect:—I feel that it is an offering at the shrine of our honorable profession, and not a mere manifestation of personal feeling towards myself:—I regard it as a mark of your veneration for the altar at which we worship; and whilst I return my heartfelt thanks, at being selected the humble instrument for this purpose, I cannot fail expressing the hope, that our successors may extend the boundaries of its usefulness, and tend still further to lessen the sum of human suffering, to mitigate the horrors of disease, and to elevate still higher the professional character.

With these views, and this imperfect expression of my feelings, I beg leave to propose the following sentiment—

Our profession, may it steadily advance.

5. Dr. Mott's passport—the scroll of his professional eminence, countersigned by his professional brethren.

6. Surgical science in our country.

7. American physicians—Rush, Miller, Bard, Wistar, Post and Mitchell, and other eminent worthies who have adorned our profession.

8. The healing art—may its cultivators walk worthy of its high behest.

9. The university of the state of New-York.

#### Volunteer Toasts.

1. By Dr. D. Hosack—The memory of Dr. John Onderdonk, the late President of the New-York Medical Society.

On which the Rt. Rev. Bishop Onderdonk

rose and returned thanks for the tribute of respect to the memory of his Father, and concluded by offering the following sentiment—

3. The Medical Profession, in its legitimate character and influence, the best friend to the ministers of religion.

3. By Dr. Macneven—The American traveller, who goes to the regions of Europe a fair specimen of the excellent fruit, which the seed thence derived, produces in a congenial soil.

4. By Dr. Francis—Our esteemed friend Dr. Mott—may he find in another climate the only blessing he wanted in this.

5. By Dr. Barrow—The Sons of *Æsculapius*—may they ever maintain the honor and integrity of their Post.

6. By Dr. McLean—The memory of Dr. Jones and the other Surgeons of the Revolutionary Army.

On which the venerable Dr. Prescott rose, and after a few appropriate remarks in reference to his old associates, he concluded by offering the following sentiment:

7. Our venerable Medical Brother, and American Biographer, Dr. James Thacher, who is worthy of the highest respect and esteem, as well for the excellent qualities of his heart, as his unremitting labors for the benefit of mankind.

8. By Dr. Gilford—Dr. Mott, by cutting an acquaintance he often saves a friend.

9. By Dr. S. P. White—The 17th of June, 1828, a day rendered memorable in surgical history, by the first successful excision of the clavicle.

10. By Jer. Van Rensselaer—Homeopathy: “Two ruffles and never a shirt.”

11. By D. McLean—The memory of our illustrious countryman, Dr. Benjamin Rush, not less distinguished abroad for his high professional attainments, than beloved and appreciated at home for his private virtues and untiring efforts to advance the interests of medical science in his native country.

12. By Dr. Cornell—Medicine and Surgery, one and indivisible.

Dr. John Stearns prefaced his sentiment by the following remarks—It is with no ordinary gratification that I am permitted to witness such a large and respectable assemblage of the medical profession, uniting their efforts to honor the departure of our respected brother to a foreign land.

This is a practical proof of that honorable feeling which pervades the faculty, and prompts them to honor that merit in others which they are ambitious to acquire for themselves. And in no instance that occurs to my knowledge can we bestow this tribute of respect, where a more cordial response will be resounded from our transatlantic brethren, or be more harmoniously sanctioned by the profession in America. Even those who studiously depreciated the arts, the sciences, and the talents of our own country, are compelled to admit that we

have at least one professor of surgery who stands without a rival. Although we have had a McKnight, a Post, and a Physic, who have severally contributed to advance the professional character of our country, it was reserved for their junior brother to place the key-stone upon the arch which his predecessors had erected—and there may it remain an edearing monument of that native genius which Americans delight to honor—a harbinger of good feeling to the profession, and an incitement to others to emulate his reputation, and to merit those honors which are this day conferred upon the patron of American surgery.

13. May our respected Brother bear a message to surgery in the old world, which shall fully sustain the high character he has given to it in the new.

14. By Dr. Mott—The Medical Profession, may its adhesions be strong, and its ligatures secure.

15. By Dr. Delafield—The memory of Dr. Post.

16. By Dr. B. Drake—The occasion—Hæc olim meminisse juvabit.

The following toast was given with some appropriate remarks—

17. By Dr. Webster—Our professional brethren of Philadelphia.

After which, Dr. William Rush, of Philadelphia, rose and spoke as follows:—It gives me pleasure, Mr. President, to return my thanks for the compliment just now conferred upon the medical profession of Philadelphia. In reference to myself, I gladly came here to render homage, not to receive honor, except by my presence in this distinguished assembly. With becoming modesty, therefore; I would parry the compliment given to me, and let it pass to those who merit it more—to those whom I have recently left. Permit me, however, Mr. President, to offer you a sentiment, in which I am sure all my professional brethren of Philadelphia would unite without a dissenting voice—

18. The present Company, and the occasion—the former fit incense to cast upon the shrine of the professional fame of the latter.

The Chairman having retired, Dr. S. W. Moore offered the following toast:

19. Dr. David Hosack—the American Boerhaave.

20. By Dr. Knox—Dr. Mott, Intaminatis fulget honoribus.

21. By J. K. Rodgers—The memory of William and John Hunter, par nobile fratum.

22. By Dr. Carroll—The memory of the lamented Godman, the Bichat of the New World.

23. By Dr. Vaché—The ligature of the “nameless artery”—identified with the history of our country.

24. By Dr. Rhinelander—Dr. A. F. Vaché, the “Fidus Achates” of our distinguished guest.

25. By Dr. Hoffman—The memory of Dr. William Moore—his abilities and gentle virtues are perpetuated in his descendants.

26. By Dr. Webster—Dr. S. P. White, the first successful operator on the internal iliac in the United States.

To which Dr. White replied in a neat address, and offered the following:

27. Dr. Mott—the only successful operator on the common iliac in the world.

28. By Dr. A. E. Hosack—The memory of Dr. Benjamin Rush, the American Sydenham.

29. By Dr. Van Rensselaer—The memory of Dr. Nicholas Romaine, the founder of the first Medical School in New-York.

30. By Dr. Doane—Native Talent: it has reared up the glorious fabric of our political constitution: it is adequate to preserve our physical one.

31. J. Kearny Rodgers—Dr. Wright Post, who first in the United States successfully tied the carotid artery and external iliac, and who taught the surgeons of the world that the subclavian might be secured.

32. By Dr. Punnett—Our esteemed friend Dr. Mott, at whose approach disease, like the mimosa, shrinks from contact.

33. By Dr. Rhinelander—The Medical Profession: when they all agree, their unanimity is wonderful.

